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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

REPORT

SUBJECT

1. Organization of 55th Sep. Tk. Eng. Bn
2. Notes on Soviet Army Equipment

DATE DISTR.

20 January 1955

NO. OF PAGES

14

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

CONFIDENTIAL**REPORT**

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COUNTRY Austria**DATE DISTR.** 15 Oct 1954**SUBJECT** 1. Organization of 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn.
2. Notes on Soviet Army Equipment**NO. OF PAGES** -13**DATE OF INFORMATION****REFERENCES:**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**Organization**

1. [redacted] organizational structure of [redacted] units in the Soviet army [redacted] the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn. of the 13th Gds. Mecz. Div. stationed in Goetzendorf (N 48-01, E 16-35), Austria. Attached (Annex A) [redacted] estimate of the equipment of the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn., and (Annex B) [redacted] estimate of the organization of the battalion. [redacted] estimate of the actual organization and subordination of the staff of the same unit is attached (Annex C). 25X1
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2. [redacted] the 82d How. Brig. in Muling (N 56-17, E 42-56), USSR. [redacted] the unit had two battalions of howitzers. Each battalion had two batteries with a number of 122-mm. howitzers in each battery. [redacted] 25X1
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3. [redacted] command channels and the organization of his unit [redacted] were perverted from the system as specified by regulation. [redacted] 25X1
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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- a. The 1st Tng. Co. consisted of five training platoons and the company headquarters (Annex B). Each of the platoons had a separate training mission and was assigned approximately 28 privates as trainees.
- (1) The 1st to 4th Plats. were identical in size. Each was divided into two squads of 14 private trainees; each had two sergeant squad leaders and an officer platoon leader, usually a senior lieutenant. The 5th Plat. was divided into three squads, each with a sergeant squad leader. Two of the squads had 9 privates as trainees and one had 10 privates as trainees. Aside from a senior lieutenant platoon leader, this platoon had no other personnel.
 - (2) The company headquarters had five officers, a master sergeant (starshyna), and a private. The officers were: a major as company commander, a captain as deputy commander on political affairs, a lieutenant as artillery technician, a lieutenant as tank technician, and a junior lieutenant as radio technician. These officers were also the instructors of classes held for the platoons. The master sergeant was the company first sergeant and performed all the administrative functions of company supply in addition to supervising conduct and company duties of the EM. The private (kaptenarmus) performed all clerical work in the company supply and orderly rooms.
 - (3) The company armament consisted of 10 TT pistols (one per officer), 12 PPSH. SMG's (one per sergeant), and an unknown number of carbines. [redacted] all privates were issued carbines but that about half of these were dummy training weapons. [redacted] dummy weapons were issued because of the great wear and tear placed on the weapons by inexperienced soldiers during training. 25X1 25X1
 - (4) Guard duty was assigned by platoons. When a platoon was to stand guard duty all men who were selected (usually 22 privates) reported to the artillery ordnance supply room of the battalion and drew PPSH SMG's, leaving their carbines in the company supply room. During alerts those personnel who were armed with dummy training carbines fell out without arms.
 - (5) In addition to the above equipment, the 1st Tng. Co. had received [redacted] new SKS carbines and a new type of SMG.¹. 25X1
- b. The 2nd Tng. Co. was almost identical to the 1st Tng. Co. except for the following differences:
- (1) The 5th Plat. had 10 private trainees in each of the three squads.
 - (2) The first sergeant was a senior sergeant, although the position called for a master sergeant.
 - (3) There were only four officers in the company headquarters. They were a major as company commander, a senior lieutenant as deputy commander for political affairs, and two lieutenants as tank technicians.

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c. The Tk. Supply Co. was divided into four platoons and a company headquarters. Its mission was the training and technical support of the two training companies.

- (1) The 1st Plat. consisted of one senior lieutenant as platoon leader and two sections of instructors. The first section had five sergeants who were heavy tank instructors. Two of these sergeants had a JS-2 heavy tank each, and three of the sergeants had a JS-3 heavy tank each. The second section had three sergeants who were heavy SP instructors. Each had a SU-122 assigned to him. There were no other personnel in this platoon. The officer was armed with a TT pistol, and the sergeants were armed with either TT pistols or Nagant revolvers.

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there was a total of five pistols and three revolvers. There was no equipment in the platoon other than the component accessories for each tank and SP gun.

- (2) The 2d Plat. consisted of one senior lieutenant and seven sergeant instructors. Six of the sergeants were assigned to a T-34/85 or a T-34/76 tank each (exact breakdown unknown) and one was assigned a SU-100 SP gun. This platoon was not divided into squads. The officer was armed with a TT pistol and the sergeants were armed with either TT pistols or with Nagant revolvers.

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four of the sergeants had pistols and three had revolvers.) There were no other personnel in the platoon and no other equipment other than the component accessories for each tank and SP gun.

- (3) The 3d Plat. was identical to the 2d Plat. except that instead of the SU-100 SP gun there was a seventh T-34 tank.

- (4) The 4th Plat. consisted of one officer as platoon leader and two sections.

- (a) One section was the Trans. Sec. and consisted of one sergeant mechanic section leader and six privates (drivers). This section had all the motor transport of the battalion which was: one ZIS-5 gasoline tank truck (capacity unknown), one Dodge 3/4-ton weapons carrier, one Willys 1/4-ton jeep, one ZIS-151 truck remade into a mobile repair shop¹, one Ford ambulance, two ZIS-5 cargo trucks (one was used for training and one was used to haul rations), and one M-72 motorcycle.

- (b) The second section was the Technical Supply Sec. and consisted of one junior sergeant and four privates. The junior sergeant was the section leader

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One private was armor-tank equipment (Brone-Tankovoye Imushchistvo-BTI) technician, one was an armorer, and two were wet cell battery technicians (akumulyator-shchiki). The section had tools and other repair equipment

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All the sergeants and the officer were armed with TT pistols and the privates were armed with carbines

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- (5) The company headquarters consisted of three officers and a master sergeant. The three officers were: a captain as Company CO, a captain as Deputy Commander for Political Affairs, and a senior lieutenant as Deputy Commander of Technical Sec. The master sergeant was company first sergeant; there was no company clerk. All of these were armed with TT pistols.

- d. The battalion staff and headquarters consisted of 18 officers, 7 sergeants, and 15 privates (Annex C). The mission of the headquarters was command, logistical support, and training of the battalion.

- (1) All officers on the battalion staff including the commanding officer were armed with TT pistols, all the sergeants were armed with TT pistols except the librarian, who was not armed, and the ration and forage clerk, who [redacted] was also unarmed. All the privates were armed with carbines except a cobbler, the medical aidman, and the chief clerk of the technical section who were unarmed, and a training aids man private (laborant) and the chief clerk of the staff who had Nagant revolvers. All the enlisted personnel of the battalion staff were billeted with the Tk. Supply Co. and came under the supervision of the first sergeant for logistical support only. [redacted] staff enlisted personnel received no orders from the company officers.

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- (2) In the event of alerts, personnel of the staff who were unarmed fell out without weapons. Personnel of the staff stood no guard but were called upon to act as CQ in the staff building. While performing this duty they carried no arms.

4. Other equipment assigned to the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn. was as follows:

- a. Communication equipment: three World War II German field telephones, one 10-RT radio, six or more 10-RK-26, and six or more 9-RM radios. The telephones were used by the battalion staff as follows: one was connected to the 13th Gds. Mecz. Div. Hq. and two connected the battalion headquarters with the guard room. The radios were used for training purposes only and were located in the various classrooms. Other radios were organic to the tanks and SP guns of the Tank Supply Co. and Source was unable to name any of these sets. However, he thought that the tanks and SP guns might have carried the RK-26 radio.

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- b. In the battalion headquarters there was a supply room that came under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Arty. Ordnance of the battalion. Here were kept the extra PPSH SMG's used for guard duty. There were 42 of these; 22 were taken out for guard duty at night. There were two round ammunition drums (capacity unknown to Source) with each PPSH SMG. In this room were also kept four 8X-30 field glasses and about 12 6X-30 field glasses. Two or three extra gun sights were kept there; Source did not know the type but stated that T-34 tanks used the TSh-16 sight and the heavy tanks used the TSh-17. There was an unknown number of TT pistols, three small bore Margolin target pistols, and two small bore unknown-make target rifles kept in this supply room.
- c. In the engineer and chemical classroom there was an unknown number of camouflage nets and entrenching tools. These were used for demonstration purposes.
- d. In the guard room there was a space reserved for the storage of CW demonstration equipment (several unknown types of smoke pots and toxic gases in bottles, some protective clothing and decontamination equipment). The battalion had no other types of CW items except gas masks and protective paper capes issued to individuals.

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<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PRESENT RANK</u>	<u>NEW T/O&E RANK</u>
CO	Lt. Col.	Lt. Col.
Deputy for Line Matters (Zamestitel'po Stroya- vym Delam)	None	Maj.
Deputy for Political Affairs	Lt.Col./Maj.	Maj.
Deputy for Technical Section	Maj.	Unknown
Chief of Staff	Lt.Col./Maj.	Capt.
Assistant Chief of Staff	Capt.	Sr. Lt.
Assistant Deputy Technical Section	Capt.	Sr. Lt.
Chief of Clothing and Equipment Warehouse (OVS)	Sr. Lt.	Lt. (Also to be Chief of Rations and Forage (Ware- house)

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<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PRESENT RANK</u>	<u>NEW T/O&E RANK</u>
Chief of Rations and Forage Warehouse (PFS)	Lt.	None
Chief of Artillery Ordnance	Capt.	Sr. Lt.
Chief of Gunnery (Nachal'nik Po Ognevoy Sluzhby)	Capt.	Unknown

In the future, the following changes of assignment were planned for the officers of the battalion:

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CO 1st Tng. Co., Maj. RUBAN, to be Deputy Commander for Line Matters (Stroyevoy Chas'ti)

Assistant Deputy of Technical Sec., Capt. KISEM', to be CO 1st Tng. Co.

Chief of Gunnery, Capt. GERASIMOV, to be CO of a new Tng. Co.

Chief of Clothing & Equipment, Lt. PECHKAREV, to be Asst. Chief of Staff

The changes in accordance with the order, affected even the enlisted personnel of the staff. It was known for example, that the senior librarian could be a civilian voluntary employee, that almost all the clerks in the staff could be long term enlistees (sverkhsrochniki). In the end all the enlisted staff people laughed when the Rations and Forage Clerk announced he was going to become an extended tour man /"makaronnik"/.2.

The pay scale depends on falling within one or another "VUS" number. For example, the clerk of rations and forage had the number 146.

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Weapons

6. [redacted] Soviet Army weapons and components parts [redacted]

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Weapon

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Unknown type of AT gun sight. (Supposedly completely new in principle.)

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Weapon

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122-mm. howitzer
M1938

45-mm. AT gun,
M1942

U/1 arty. (larger
than 200-mm.)

152-mm. gun-howitzer,
M1937

57-mm. gun M-43
(ZIS-2)

85-mm. AA gun
M1939 or 1944

Rocket launchers,
132-mm., 82-mm., and
300-mm.

107-mm. artillery corps
gun, M1940 (M60)

122-mm. gun howitzer
(Model unknown)

Faust-patron
(Panzerfaust?)
(Caliber and model
unknown)

US-type Rocket
Launcher ("bazooka")
(caliber and model
unknown)

37-mm. AA guns, M-15
(twin barrels)

37-mm. AA guns, M-17

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Weapon

85-mm. AA gun
(model unknown)

45 or 57-mm. AT gun
(model unknown)

7.62-mm. PPS ("Simo-
nov") (model unknown)
LMG

7.62-mm. PPS ("Sudaev")
LMG M43

7.62-mm. sniper rifle,
M1891/30

7.62-mm. DP and DPM MG

7.62-mm. HMG "Maxim",
M1910

7.62-mm. HMG "Goryu-
nov", M1943

12.7-mm. DShK HMG,
M1938

120-mm. Mortar,
M1938 or M1943

7.62-mm. Tank DT and
DTM MG

F-1, RPG-43, and RG-42
hand grenades

RPG-40 hand grenade

76-mm. divisional
gun, M1942 (ZIS-3)

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Armored Equipment

7. SP equipment Soviet armor and 25X1

Item

152-mm. JSU-152
SP gun

76-mm. SU-76
SP gun, M1942/43

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Vehicles

8. Soviet Army vehicles 25X1

Vehicle

C-80 tractor
("Stalinets C-80")

M-75 motorcycle

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- 3 Annexes: A. Estimate of the T/E of the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn. of the 13th Gds, Mecz. Div.
- B. Estimate of the Actual Strength and Organization of the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn., 13th Gds. Mecz. Div.
- C. Concept of Actual Subordination of Staff Personnel, 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn., 13th Gds. Mecz. Div.

1. [REDACTED] 25X1

2. [REDACTED] 25X1

Comment! "Makaronnik" ("macaroni eater") is Soviet soldier slang for a long-term regular army soldier (reenlistee). It is derived from the fact that there is a large amount of macaroni in the army diet.

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Estimate of the T/E of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn of the 13th Gds Mecz Div

Annex A

	TT Pistols	Nagant revolver	Carbine M1944	PPSh SMG	Carbine (dummy)	JS-2 Hvy Tk	JS-3 Hvy Tk	T-34 Med Tk	SU-100	SU-122	ZIS-5 Trucks	Dodge 3/4 Ton Truck	Willys 1/4 Ton Jeep	ZIS-151 Truck	Ford Ambulance	German Field Telephone	Radio, 10-RT	Radio, 10-RK-26	Radio, 9-RM	Field Glass 8X-30	Field Glass 6X-30	Mosolin Pistols	Unk small-bore rifles	Shlem Gas Mask	Gas Protective Caps
Bn Total	68	11	163	66	141	2	3	13	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	6	6	4	12	3	2	413	413
Bn Hq & Staff	24	2	10	42												3	1	6	6	4	12	3	2	41	41
1st Tng Co	10		73	12	70																			163	163
2d Tng Co	9		72	12	71																			165	165
Tk Supply Co	25	9	10			2	3	13	1	3	3	1	1	1	1									44	44
Co Hq	(4)																							(4)	(4)
1st Plat	(6)	(3)				(2)	(3)			(3)														(9)	(9)
2d Plat	(5)	(3)						(6)	(1)															(8)	(8)
3d Plat	(5)	(3)						(7)																(8)	(8)
4th Plat	(5)	(10)									(3)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)									(15)	(15)

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